

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:00 P.M.

JUNE 4, 2014

This Regular Meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence by President of Council Richard Dellapenna with the following Members of Council present:

**RC-1 PRESENT: FAWN WALKER-MONTGOMERY,
JAMIE BREWSTER-FILOTEI,
RICHARD DELLAPENNA, DANIEL
CARR, JAMES BARRY, KEITH SOLES,
DALE McCALL**

Reverend Boniface Igba from the McKeesport Ministerium led the prayer.

Also present were Mayor Michael Cherepko, City Administrator Matthew Gergely, City Solicitor J. Jason Elash and members of the Administration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To approve the minutes for the Public Hearing of May 6, 2014, and the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2014.

RC-2	YEAS:	WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, DELLAPENNA, CARR, BARRY, SOLES, McCALL	7
	NAYS:	NONE.....	0

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Council received an invitation to participate in the McKeesport Mon-Yough Valley Flag Day Service to help celebrate and commemorate the adoption of the American Flag on Saturday, June 14, at 1:00 p.m. at the Palisades at McKees Point.
- Received an invitation from the Renzie Park Seniors to attend their Thank God Its Spring Picnic on Friday, June 13, from noon until 3:00 p.m.
- Received a memorandum from Bryan J. Washowich, Chief of Police, RE: May 2014 Statistics.
- Received a report from Kevin Lust, Fire Chief, RE: McKeesport Fire Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Cherepko said he will be brief this evening. He said he just wanted to comment first and foremost, as many have seen in the paper, that it is very disheartening to see U.S. Steel make a decision, which was released to the public this week, that they will be closing the doors of the McKeesport Tubular Operations. He said the City is doing everything in its power ... this is much bigger than McKeesport locally. He said this is foreign trade, imports, tariffs, duties and everything else. He said Congressman Doyle was adamant that he would continue to fight to do what he can do to make sure this plant stays open. He said this is on a national level. He said they are working with Senator Brewster, Representative Gergely at the State level as well. He said they are doing everything they can. He said his heart goes out to the families of those who lose their jobs and how they are affected. He said that is the one

thing about McKeesport and the whole Mon Valley because this really, in essence, is much more than a McKeesport thing. He said one thing about McKeesport and Mon Valley people is that they know how to overcome the tough times and they will get through this. He said he thinks people need to understand too that some media outlets painted a picture of the financial status of the City and that this was just an absolutely devastating blow to the City. He said the truth of the matter is that what is bad here is the effect on the families because of the job losses and how they are affected by this. He said financially speaking, the only revenue that comes to the City from U.S. Steel is the wage tax from the 25 to 30 people who work there that live in McKeesport. He said it has a minimal impact on the City as far as that goes. He said they are only talking about wage taxes for 25-30 people and then \$52 from all the other employees who work in the City and live somewhere else. He said the City does not get business privilege taxes like they do from other businesses. He said they do not get mercantile tax like they do from any other business. He said because U.S. Steel is a manufacturing company, they are exempt from those taxes. He said he did want to clarify that issue and make it very clear that his biggest concern is the families that will be affected by this. He said everyone needs to keep those families in their prayers. He said hopefully everything works out. He said the City will continue to do everything they can on their end to contact people.

- Mayor Cherepko said on a more positive note, he cannot remember how many meetings they have had with the Mayor's Committee on Community Issues since the last Council meeting, and doesn't know if it is one or two. He said those meetings have been going very well. He said the very last meeting was up in Grandview and the 9th Ward area of the City. He said they skipped over the 8th Ward and wanted to get to the 9th Ward because he knew it was critical to get a Task Force up there. He said they needed a

group of people who would step up and be leaders in their community and help preserve that neighborhood. He said they have Task Forces in the 7th Ward, the 12th Ward and part of the 8th Ward. He said it was really nice to see the Grandview Area, which is still a large area, come through at the meeting. He said not only did they get a lot of issues to address but they were also able to put together a task force headed by Chairman Charles Alfer. He said Mr. Alfer is a gentleman from Grandview that stepped up pretty quickly to take a leadership role. He said there are a dozen or so people that are really getting involved with that Task Force. He said two of the Council members are also involved, one who actually lives in the District, Fawn Walker-Montgomery, and Keith Soles who does not live in the district but is willing to help out. He said Mr. Soles has an interest in Grandview. He said it was nice to have them there. He said it was a positive thing. He said for those who don't know, these task forces are a way to communicate directly with the Administration. He said it is the best way to try to get to the problems before they actually surface on many different occasions, to help look out for the neighborhood, to help instill pride back into the neighborhood, to have cleanup days and activities like that to bring the neighborhood together and to make the neighborhood a better place. He said it is something the City is encouraging throughout the entire City. He said they are looking for other areas to step up and get involved with Task Forces also. He said he was very excited to finally be able to get the Grandview Task Force established. He said they are still reaching out to other areas also.

- Mayor Cherepko said the one other thing that is on the agenda tonight is Bill #45 with Freedom Systems Corporation. He said they are the company who has the software program that will really bring the City into the 21st Century. He said it will make the City run much more efficiently by having all of the programs necessary. He said what they have done ... this is not something that just

happened overnight but has been an ongoing process. He said it is a long-term commitment. He said once they make the commitment to switch over to this, it is something that the City will have in front of them for quite some time. He said the City has had the Munis system now for a couple of decades. He said with that being said, he is going to ask Council tonight to table this Bill. He said the reason for that is because one of the other companies that they were talking to came through with a proposal at the last minute and that company did not provide the City with as many details about the program up front. He said he just wants to make sure that when the City makes a decision, they are going to handle this in a way that when they bring it to Council, it is in the best interest of the City. He said Freedom is a good company and may be who they go with next month, but he doesn't want to leave any stone unturned. He said he wants to make sure they take care of their due diligence and really make sure that they implement something without question that will be in the best interest of the City, the most affordable program and the biggest bang for their buck. He said they cannot always go with the cheapest thing when they are dealing with something like this. He said he is asking Council to Table this Bill. He said he knows Matt is really the one who dealt with the individual today in a meeting that lasted two and a half hours. He said he didn't know if Matt wanted to say anything right now or not. He said they just wanted to follow up with this company a little further.

- Mr. Gergely said they just wanted to make sure they were doing the right thing. He said this other company looks similar and he is not sure they can do what Freedom is intending to do, but he would like to examine it and make sure they are making the right decision. He said they will definitely have something at the next Council meeting. He said they have to. He said it will be one of the two companies after they look

at it a little further to make sure they are making the right decision.

- Mayor Cherepko said at the end of the day, one more month is really not going to hurt them on this. He said they set their goals to have everything up and running by January 1. He said as long as they approve something next month, he feels pretty comfortable and confident with that. He said that is why he is asking Council to make a motion to table this Bill, so they can feel 100% about the direction they are going to take. He said this is something that will be with the City for many years.
- Mayor Cherepko said the only other thing he has is something he talked about last evening. He said Mr. Soles has been very involved with the Recreation Board for a few years now and it might have even been prior to when he ran for Council. He said Mr. Soles has not even been on the Board. He said this is what they talked about before regarding volunteers, even if they are not on the board, they can come out and be part of the activities. He said with that being said, there is an opening on the Recreation Board right now and he would like to ask Council for a motion to appoint Keith Soles a member of the Recreation Board.

MOTION: Mr. Carr moved, seconded by Mr. Barry, "To appoint Keith Soles to the Recreation Board."

RC-3	YEAS:	WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER- FILOTEI, DELLAPENNA, CARR, BARRY, McCALL	6
	NAYS:	NONE.....	0
	ABSTAIN:	SOLES.....	1

- Mayor Cherepko said thank you. He said the only other thing is that he mentioned something last night and will not go into so many details as last night, but the Public is here

today. He said the Intergovernmental Agreement that they will be looking at on the Agenda is the Agreement between the Housing Authority and the City of McKeesport. He said the Housing Authority has a lot of equipment that is not being used right now because they have had so many cutbacks. He said the City, in exchange for a lot of nice equipment that can be used by the City, will help the Housing Authority with some pothole patching and other repairs on their premises. He said that will be on the Agenda later. He said they are very excited about that and the equipment will come at a very good time, in the summer. He said the summer help can get out and help clean these lots and a lot of the blight resulting from those.

- Mayor Cherepko said the demolition project in the Seventh Ward, the Revitalization of the Cultural and Educational Sector, is up and running. He said there should be 26 or 27 houses that will be coming down up around the Library and Cornell School, which is now Twin Rivers Primary and Secondary School. He said they are very excited to have that happening. He said they will also be starting their own demolition. He said they are trying to work out the final numbers for the hauling away of the material. He said if anyone asks what the delay is, the delay is that if they don't get their materials hauled away cheaper than what they pay the garbage hauler, then they would be paying the same amount tearing them down themselves as if they had them torn down. He said the money is just not there for that. He said they are going to finalize that and move forward with that. He said at next month's Council Meeting, they put together a list of houses, in addition to the demolition in 7th Ward, for the demolition that the City will be doing over the next month. He said those houses will be mostly in the lower Wards. He said they are also going to put together a list of about 20 houses that will make up all of the Wards. He said they will hit just about every Ward. He said most of them will be on the fringes as they continue to work in-house with the ones in the 7th Ward. He said they will be

taking down houses in the 12th, 11th, 10th, 9th, 8th, 7th, 6th, and maybe in one of the lower Wards. He said they will be also working in the lower Wards themselves. He said the contract will be more for the other neighborhoods on the fringes. He said that will be next month. He said that concludes his report.

Mr. Dellapenna said for the folks who are following the Agenda, they will see that they have removed the Council Reports. He said in the future they are going to do the Council Reports on Tuesdays at the Work Session. He said since everyone was not notified of that prior to the meeting on Tuesday, they were not prepared. He said tonight they will allow Council Reports for those who have something to report. He said starting next month, Council Reports will be done on Tuesday at the Work Session. He said that way they can just focus on the Agenda at the meetings.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

- Ms. Brewster-Filotei said she had nothing to report.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she would like to update Council on the Business District Authority. She said she passed around some flyers earlier. She said on June 25 the Authority is hosting a Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Certification. She said Ruth Byrd-Smith is the Director of Allegheny County Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Department. She said Ms. Byrd-Smith is going to come out and talk to local businesses. She said Ms. Byrd-Smith is not from McKeesport, so this is supposed to be for anyone who has a business. She said Ms. Byrd-Smith will come out and talk to them about marketing and how to get the certification. She said in addition she gave all of them a proposal from the Regional Enterprise which was to work with the District

Authority. She said they need funding to do the proposal in which they would train local entrepreneurs from McKeesport. She said a meeting has been set up between herself and the Mayor, before she brings it to Council. She said they are going to sit down and hash that out before they will bring that to Council. She said they wanted to make sure the Authority had the Mayor's support with that. She said to update them on some community events, she is having a Father-Daughter dance on June 21 at Rainbow Temple. She said if anyone wants to come out, she has passed a flyer around. She said in addition, the We Need Justice Too McKeesport's name has been changed to Take Action Mon Valley. She said they have combined that with McKeesport, Duquesne, Rankin, Munhall, Homestead and whoever in the Mon Valley wants to participate. She said as they always say, it is not just a McKeesport issue with this violence. She said that is why they decided to combine those. She said someone here tonight is going to speak about that. She said in addition, she sits on the Library Board and the new Director is here tonight. She said she would like Ms. Moten to come up at this time and introduce herself to Council.

- Ms. Kelley Moten introduced herself to Council. She said she lives in Etna and has been working at McKeesport Library since January 2010. She said she started as an Intern and took over as Assistant Director, filled in as Interim Director and is now the Director. She said she couldn't more thrilled to be appointed Director.
- Council said welcome.
- Ms. Kelley Moten said she knows more about McKeesport than she does about her own area. She said thank you.
- Mr. Barry said he would like to report that the LaRosa Boys and Girls Club will be holding a Summer Day Camp which begins Monday and runs for 9 weeks through the first week

of August. He said it will be held Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. and is for children ages 5 to 13. He said the cost of the camp is \$60.00 which includes the normal daily activities, breakfast, lunch, snack as well as one field trip each week. He said financial assistance is available for any children who may have the need. He said anyone interested can stop and see them at the Club.

- Someone in the audience asked if that is \$60.00 a week.
- Mr. Barry said yes, that is \$60.00 per week.
- Mr. Soles said he has nothing to report.
- Mr. Carr said he would like to report two events that are going on with the Recreation Board in McKeesport. He said at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, they will have a fishing derby that has been taking place for about 60 years. He said if anyone has children or grandchildren, that event is something that is free and they give away prizes that are donated by the Recreation Board. He said this is also the second year for the American Road Racing Association so the Park will be closed because they are doing a loop race around Renzie on Saturday morning. He said this will last a few hours. He said if anyone can come out to that, it is a great event. He said the event is a bicycle race that went really well last year and is something to be seen. He said it is not something they see in McKeesport. He said he would like to see support for that again for this year.
- Ms. Brewster-Filotei said what time is that again.
- Mr. Carr said it is 8:00 a.m. for the Fishing Derby and 9:00 a.m. for the race. He said there are different classifications for the Road Racing so he doesn't think they will really start at 9:00 a.m. but should start around 9:30 a.m. He said they have various categories such as Youth, Men, Women and different

classifications of Men. He said if they have ever seen a group of bicycles going 35 – 45 mph, it is something to see. He said just the backwind that comes off of it is amazing.

- Mayor Cherepko said they had seats last year in the Parkview Community Federal Credit Union's parking lot. He said that is where they really start moving because it is a long straightaway for the riders when they come down around Renzie then zoom up Eden Park Boulevard. He said it is amazing because if you talk about drafting ... it is like having a bunch of wind come right by you. He said it is pretty exciting and he thinks they are taking the same route as last year.
- Mr. Carr said it is the same route and the riders are excited to come back. He said they had a good turnout last year and are looking forward to a good turnout this year. He said they need the citizens to turn out for them as well. He said it should be a good time.
- Mr. McCall said he had nothing to report.
- Mr. Dellapenna said he had nothing to report.
- Mayor Cherepko said if he may say something. He said he forgot about one thing that is extremely exciting. He said he talked to Council about it and mentioned it in a meeting before because it did become public a couple of weeks ago. He said they will officially kick off the building process of the new state-of-the-art deck hockey facility that will be built next to the Blue Top Pavilion in the grass area between the Pavilion and the parking lot. He said it is ... when you talk about partnerships, working and collaborating...it is a partnership and collaborative effort between the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation and Highmark. He said they are talking about a facility ... when he says state-of-the-art for deck hockey, that is probably about a \$300,000 ordeal when it is all said and done if not more. He said it will be up

probably ... and they are hoping to have a ribbon cutting ... sometime right before International Village. He said it would be nice to have everyone that comes to International Village be able to see it. He said they are extremely excited because they are only building five this year. He said the City of McKeesport was selected for one of them. He said they worked for a very long time with them. He said he wanted to commend Matt Gergely and his Administrators such as Mr. Tedesco for getting this done. He said it is just another asset to Renzie Park and another reason for outsiders to come into the Park. He said it is just another destination point and they are very, very excited. He said he believes next week will be the week they start preparing it. He said the City will do the prep work. He said when he said \$300,000 - \$400,000, if you count all the work that needs to be done, it might be closer to \$500,000.

- Ms. Brewster-Filotei said who did he say that was through, the Penguins and Highmark.
- Mayor Cherepko said it is the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation and Highmark. He said it is a collaborative effort between those two entities and the City of McKeesport. He said the City does all the prep work up front and that is the City's contribution. He said the City will pave everything around it. He said the stands around it also and under the deck. He said then they will come in and build it. He said they will have a nice ribbon cutting. He said he thinks everyone will get a stick including a lot of the ... and then they actually go out and play a game. He said they will have a lot of the employees of Highmark and people from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation. He said he thinks it is something very special and they are very proud to be one of the communities they chose this year.

CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE:

- Mr. Dellapenna said will Darlene Allen please come forward and state her name and address.
- **DARLENE ALLEN, 1712 FLAGLER STREET, McKEESPORT, PA 15132.** Ms. Allen said she is so upset. She said she asked them to help her out with the house next door to her. She said last night it rained and it came in her house from their house. She said her husband cleans the gutters but because the house is so close to theirs, their stuff comes back down in her gutters. She said where does the Mayor live.
 - Mayor Cherepko said he lives over in Fawcett Plan.
 - Ms. Allen said where does Mr. Dellapenna live.
 - Mr. Dellapenna said Sumac and Grover.
 - Ms. Allen said if this house was by their house, would they want it to be done quicker before the water came in their basements. She said she has three grandchildren. She said she doesn't need no mildew in her house. She said she needs help.
 - Mayor Cherepko said if he may comment. He said he lived next to a vacant house for six years, so he does understand.
 - Ms. Allen said did he have water come in his place.
 - Mayor Cherepko said he would have if he would not have worked on that house while it was vacant next to him. He said that would have been a problem. He said the thing she has to understand is that the City ... if there is something they can do over on that house to help her out, they can do that. He said they can't go

hang gutters on a house next door to her. He said they don't

- Ms. Allen said they did not come steal ... she has been watching out for them all the time. She said if they didn't come steal those gutters, they wouldn't have this trouble. She said water is in her house. She said she has a grandson three years old. She said he has allergies. She said she can't take this.
- Mayor Cherepko said let them see what they can do and if they can go up there and do something. He said he knows they can't hang the gutters. He said how close is her house to that house.
- Ms. Allen said you can walk through it and rub the walls.
- Mayor Cherepko said so it might be a little difficult for one of their guys. He said how long has it been. He said it is totally dilapidated and needs torn down. He said is that what she is saying.
- Ms. Allen said no, it is a good house. She said if they didn't take those gutters.
- Mayor Cherepko said does someone live in it.
- Ms. Allen said nobody has been in there. She said no one would go in there. She said no one is there. She said it is a nice place. She said it is there for the kids and the birds now. She said when the birds make their nests up there, she gets more stuff coming down.
- Mayor Cherepko said is it because the gutters are gone, is what she is saying.
- Ms. Allen said yes. She said it rained last night and she couldn't even sleep because she could hear the rain coming down and let it go downstairs. She said he

knows how it rained last night. She said would he want that water in his cellar. She said help her.

- Mr. Gergely said that address is 1712 Flagler.
- Ms. Allen said she is at 1712 and 1714 next door is a duplex. She said her husband cut the grass.
- Mayor Cherepko said how long has it been vacant.
- Mr. Allen said a few years.
- Ms. Allen said they watched it so that they would not do anything. She said they can't keep their eye on that anymore. She said it is so bad that her gutters popped a seam. She said they replaced their gutters and she cannot replace the ones on that house.

- **GLADYS HUNT-MASON, 1914 CALIFORNIA AVENUE, WHITE OAK, PA 15131.** Ms. Mason said she is here about another McKeesport asset. She said tonight she put on a different hat and she is representing the McKeesport Regional History and Heritage Center. She said she is here for two reasons. She said initially during their last volunteer meeting, they were talking about what exciting things had transpired and the exciting things that are going to happen with the Center. She said someone said something about ... that they could get a lot more interest out of McKeesport City officials. She said there was this back and forth because some people didn't agree and some did. She said she had to open her big mouth to end this debate. She said first of all she explained the relationship that has fostered between the McKeesport Area Ministerium and the Mayor and City Council. She said the Ministerium makes their presence know during Council Meetings, prays, takes notes, and reports to the Ministerium about the goings on during the meetings. She said she explained to them ... that if they want the City to take interest in what is going on at the

Center, then perhaps they should show some interest in what is going on at the Council meetings. She said they have resolved that in the future, they will be attending ... hopefully not her all the time, but they will be attending Council meetings to show their interest in what is going on in their community and also so that Council can become aware of the things that are going on that are generated out of the Center. She said with that being said, the reason why she is really here is ... in August when they don't have a Council meeting, please be sure to stop by the booth for the Center at International Village. She said they have a wealth of stuff going on ... there is history. She said she loves the place and thinks that if they go there, they are going to be satisfied. She said with that in mind, on June 14 at 1:00 p.m. they are having a Racko tournament. She said Racko is a card game and more specifically Racko was developed by a McKeesporter. She said his name was Craig Whitehead and it was developed in 1956. She said Racko is a family-oriented card game that is still in existence. She said they are selling it ... she doesn't know how to play it but there will be individuals there to show them how to play the game. She said they can participate. She said it is for the family from ages 10 to 110. She said for younger kids there will be plenty of activities for them so they won't be left out. She said this is all free and the winner will be given a lot of table games. She said this is being sponsored by Winning Moves Games. She said they are providing the copies of the Racko for the tournament. She said they are extending an invitation for everyone to come and bring their families or spread the word. She said she does have some posters here in case ... she doesn't think she has enough to pass around. She said they have a lot of things and a lot of treasures in McKeesport. She said ever since she started working ... the first time she was at Channel 4, Jim Scott said where was she from. She said she told him McKeesport and he told her he would try not to hold that against her. She said he said it jokingly but she has to let people know that she is from McKeesport and is proud of McKeesport. She said they have

so much going on here and this is a time to celebrate what a McKeesporter has done. She said she thanks them for that. She said FYI, on Friday, the day before the tournament, the Heritage Center is hosting a Heinz History Center affiliate mini-conference. She said among Heritage Centers in a wide area, they are considered one of the top ones. She said thank you.

- **STEPHANIE MURRAY, 1102 PARK STREET, McKEESPORT, PA 15132.** Ms. Murray said we, the community of McKeesport, would like to sincerely appeal to you, the Council of McKeesport, for help. She said they desperately need justice for the families and loved ones of those who were murdered because of the senseless crimes. She said regardless of the situation, the victims families and friends are crying out for closure, seeking justice and begging for peace from within themselves. She said they need Council's help. She said they acknowledge that they cannot do this by themselves. She said as they come together and accept responsibility for the things they must do in order to get the justice they seek, they would also like for Council to come together and accept responsibility for the things they must do in order for their City, our City, to receive justice. She said they think having more cops walk the beat would help. She said they think cameras with enclosed bullet proof glass and hidden in undisclosed locations would also help. She said they think a more transparent Council will give them a better understanding of things. She said they also think that having more playgrounds built in McKeesport will keep their children busy from feuding with each other. She said they have heard the excuses why things are the way that they are. She said but they are in a state of emergency and the excuses have got to go. She said they have to be replaced with solutions. She said if one solution doesn't work, then together they must think of another one. She said they don't stop until what they seek has been obtained. She said in closing, they just ask that they be made a priority. She said they do

recognize that the Mayor and Fawn are very involved. She said they would like for all of Council to be involved. She said please make them a priority. She said thank you.

- Mayor Cherepko said if he may, Ms. Murray, he is not going to get into many details right now over this. He said he hears her concerns and he thinks she knows that they have had a couple of meetings and Fawn had meetings. He said he wanted to clarify a lot of things that she mentioned there. He said a lot of what she said is pretty accurate ... a lot of things she said they need. He said those are all things they are trying to find solutions on how to do. He said everything she just mentioned takes money. He said he does agree with that end of it but there were two things that he is going to take the liberty of going on the record with and to say that he does disagree with. He said one is that he thinks there is not a Council person up here that is not very concerned and very involved with what is going on out there in the community. He said he can tell her that he communicates constantly with these individuals throughout the entire month. He said it is constant. He said he thinks there is more to a commitment ... she may not see a commitment because maybe they don't attend a meeting but he just wants her to know that what Fawn has done ... he applauds her for that and just wants to say because ... as a matter of fact personally even Fawn said she really wasn't invited to things, even for the Councilmen. He said they are doing a lot and they care. He said that is the first inaccuracy that he wants to clarify because they are working to get these programs. He said they can sit here and talk about things for the youth and they just talked about a Deck Hockey coming in. He said they had a \$180,000 grant from the Heinz Foundation that they have never had in the history of the City of McKeesport. He said they have a KaBoom playground and the City is considered a Nationwide

Playful City USA for 2014 for the second consecutive year. He said they have never been considered a Playful City USA. He said these are things ... and he can go on and on about other programs they are talking about. He said they are talking about starting up a summer camp next year and trying to expand upon YouthCast. He said these are things ... he just wants her to know that these are things that are being focused on. He said he agrees with that part, but the second inaccuracy ... and he just wants to clarify this. He said he doesn't know what she means by a "more transparent Council." He said when he hears the word transparent, he will be honest with her, he takes offense to that. He said when someone uses that word, the only time that word gets used for the most part ... and he is not saying that she did that, but 90% of the time when that word is used, it is to try to draw attention to people where something is not being transparent. He said the one thing he can tell her is that everything that he can publicly talk about, he is open with them. He said he shares with Council and shares at these meetings. He said so he just wanted to touch on those two things. He said the other concerns are legitimate concerns. He said the problem is there are solutions but now they need solutions to fund the solutions. He said that is the problem, coming up with money. He said people don't understand that the COPS Grant money has been cut tremendously. He said there were years they had police officers being paid, most of the beat patrol over the last ten years was paid by grant money. He said that is what was funding that... COPS Grants. He said all of that has been cut now. He said all these different grants that were available for police are cut. He said what they are depending on is collaborating. He said District Attorney Steve Zappala has been providing the City with Danet now which supplements money to the City that sends the City's officers out with one D.A. agent. He said but

they do crime suppression detail, being proactive out there, in addition to the regular patrols. He said Sheriff Mullen has given the City members of their department to use as well as money. He said the problem is that their pocketbooks are all tight too. He said he welcomes her comments ... and he does ... he just wanted to clarify those two items for the public because as he said he applauds Fawn for what she is doing but when they talk about these others, this entire Council is very involved with this. He said their hearts are in the right place. He said he can tell her that he was on Council for eight years and two and a half as Mayor and he thinks this is, in his experience, the best Council they have had. He said he means that as a whole entire group. He said this is a wonderful Council that truly believes in this City and cares. He said when these things take place, they know things go unsolved and there are many reasons but he can assure her they are doing and will continue to do what they need to do to solve those. He said they do need more cooperation and things like that. He said he is not here to make excuses. He said what he wants to tell her is that he knows many of these Council people have jobs and other lives, but it kills them when they see the negative news in the paper. He said he can tell her that as Mayor he signed up for this. He said he is not asking anyone to feel sorry for him. He said when these things happen, he doesn't sleep for days. He said he kids her not. He said he knows the Chief isn't sleeping either because he and the Chief are on the phone at 3:00 and 4:00 in the morning two days after a shooting. He said it is not because of lack of effort or lack of strategy. He said it is just unfortunate that they don't have the financial resources. He said she is right, they can't use that as an excuse, they have to continue to try to find them. He said he does appreciate her comments and her stepping up. He said they were

very well spoken. He said he just wanted to touch on those two things. He said thank you.

- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said if she could add something Mayor, she wants to publicly thank him and the Chief for working with the group. She said just to feed off of what Stephanie was saying, she does work with that group and they do need to see more than just her and the Mayor at some of these meetings. She said just seeing other faces would help. She said like Stephanie said, this is a state of emergency. She said literally they are losing a generation of black men who are dying. She said she knows mothers who have lost all their children. She said it is kind of like a war where they lose all their children in a war. She said they have a war right here in America. She said black men are dying daily. She said daily. She said they lose them to jail and they lose them to death. She said it is literally a state of emergency. She said they have had these conversations around HIV/AIDS funding and they have these conversations around funding wars or people get in such a riot about U.S. Steel closing or a strip club opening. She said that is the similar attention that needs to be at this topic. She said at this point, clearly a generation is dying. She said they are dying. She said when she hears a lack of funding, she is not saying it is the City's fault, because it is not. She said this goes to the Federal and State level when she hears lack of funding. She said there is funding for other things. She said they can find money for other things to be done. She said this needs to be a priority because they are talking about somebody's life. She said that is what the group is saying. She said they do need to see more people out there than her, the Mayor and the Chief. She said those are the people they see all the time. She said they do need to see more of their faces and then when they come to them for things such as needing a resolution, it is not up to the State to say

they need more funding. She said if they can find money for these Wards and other things, they need to find money for this. She said this really is a state of emergency and it is not a McKeesport thing and that is why they made that Mon Valley. She said it is everywhere. She said Chicago is unspeakable. She said if they can put effort, and they put a lot of effort, into talking about that ordinance on memorials, which was a really good conversation, then they need to put that same effort into getting some of these murders solved.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE #14-21 – BILL #44: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 86-13, AS AMENDED, TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE McKEESPORT FIREFIGHTER’S PENSION ASSOCIATION BOARD TO THE BYLAWS OF THE McKEESPORT FIREFIGHTER’S PENSION ASSOCIATION.

MOTION: **Ms. Walker-Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. McCall, “To adopt Bill #44.”**

RC-4	YEAS:	WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, DELLAPENNA, CARR, BARRY, SOLES, McCALL	7
	NAYS:	NONE.....	0

Mr. Dellapenna said they are going to table Bill #45, so he needs a motion to Table the Bill.

BILL #45: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS

APPROVED BY THE SOLICITOR WITH FREEDOM SYSTEMS CORPORATION AND VISION FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. TO PURCHASE NEW MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE.

MOTION: **Mr. Soles moved, seconded by Mr. Barry, "To table Bill #45."**

RC-5 YEAS: WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, DELLAPENNA, CARR, BARRY, SOLES, McCALL 7

 NAYS: NONE 0

AMEND THE AGENDA:

MOTION: **Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To amend the Agenda to include Bills #46, #47 and #48."**

RC-6 YEAS: WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, DELLAPENNA, CARR, BARRY, SOLES, McCALL 7

 NAYS: NONE 0

ORDINANCE #14-22 – BILL #46: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING WITHDRAWALS FROM THE ESCROW FUND OF THE CITY CREATED BY ORDINANCE NO. 11-14 OF 2011, SPECIFYING THE AUTHORIZED USES OF SALE ESCROWED PROCEEDS FROM THE ESCROW FUND PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE 11-14 OF 2011, PROVIDING FOR NECESSARY AUTHORIZATIONS AND OPINIONS REQUIRED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION AND DIRECTION TO OFFICERS OF THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ANY INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES AND SETTING FORTH AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

MOTION: Ms. Brewster-Filotei moved, seconded by Mr. Barry, "To adopt Bill #46."

- Mr. Dellapenna said can the Mayor tell them what this bill is about.
- Mayor Cherepko said all that is was when the Sewage Authority paid off their debt to the City for their sewage lines years ago, the City took that money and paid down the City's debt and created an escrow account that would help them for cash flow purposes and would come into the budget every August to pay off toward their debt service payment. He said this is \$550,000 of that and is exactly what they have already budgeted for as a Council and the remainder of that they will just put into the Mayor's Reserve Fund which has to be authorized by Council to be spent. He said that way they have a wonderful system of checks and balances.

RC-7 YEAS: WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, DELLAPENNA, CARR, BARRY, SOLES, McCALL 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2014-24 – BILL #47: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE PITTSBURGH PENGUINS FOUNDATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A DECK HOCKEY RINK BEHIND THE BLUE TOP PAVILION IN RENZIEHAUSEN PARK IN THE CITY OF McKEESPORT.

MOTION: Mr. Soles moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To adopt Bill #47."

RC-8 YEAS: WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, DELLAPENNA, CARR, BARRY, SOLES, McCALL 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2014-25 – BILL #48: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE McKEESPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR SERVICES TO SAID AUTHORITY IN EXCHANGE FOR THE DONATION OF UNUSED EQUIPMENT TO THE CITY.

MOTION: Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To adopt Bill #48."

RC-9 YEAS: WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, DELLAPENNA, CARR, BARRY, SOLES, McCALL 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

CONTROLLER’S REPORT:

Mr. Walsh said he is happy to report that the bills total \$30,033.25, which is a pleasure for this month. He said the bills are in order and he recommends Council’s approval of the bills.

MOTION: Ms. Brewster-Filotei moved, seconded by Mr. McCall, "To approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$30,033.25."

RC-10 YEAS: WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, DELLAPENNA, CARR, BARRY, SOLES, McCALL 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

ADJOURNMENT:

President of Council Richard Dellapenna adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Williams
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

APPROVED:

Dale McCall
Vice President of Council

daw

